THE EXAMINER.

No. 215 SUNDAY, FEB. 9, 1812

THE POLITICAL EXAMINER.

Party is the madness of many for the gain of a few. SWIFT.

No. 209.

THE FAST-DAY.

We have had another Proclamation-day of fasting and humiliation, which now seems to have become an annual business; and what has been the consequence? Has a partial abstinence from flesh for the space of four-and-twenty hours diminished the general sin of luxury? Has a genuflexion upon hassocks given humility to any one of the confident and stubborn persons that have the present management of the United Kingdom? The very questions appear ridiculous; and yet what is the object of fast-days? Either they have an object or they have not; and if they have, how is it attained? Who is in possession of it? What good, for instance, arose from the fast-day of 1811? I am not questioning the general propriety of petitioning DIVINE PROVIDENCE; and still less the blessed institution of the weekly day of rest;—but what object, what real feeling, what experience of *result*, what *necessity* where devotion is *habitual*, or *decency* where devotion is *a shew*, can justify, in the sight of reason or religion, this annual call upon a nation to eat one sort of food instead of another, and to go humbly on it's knees as if it were "for that day only" and "by desire of several persons of distinction?"

In a former paper,* I took some little pains to shew the inherent absurdity of fast-days in general, and therefore need not repeat here all the inconsistent and deplorable points of view in which they present themselves. But every time the day is repeated, it betrays to one's mind some new feature that tells against it; and though it is not to be imagined that the exposure of such customs is to do them immediately away, yet the repeated protestations of the rational part of the community against any prevailing error, may and unquestionably do have their effect in the course of time, and at any rate serve to hinder the growth of new ones and to keep alive the general spirit of reason and enquiry.

It is to be presumed that those who ordain a fast-day,—the PRINCE and his Ministers, for instance, on the present occasion,—keep it with the greatest devotion and rise from it with the happiest effect; and it is to be imagined also, that the whole nation, having been requested to fast, do fast accordingly and have a proper horror, throughout the day, of mutton and beef. But what are we to think, if the former keep it to no purpose, and if the latter scarcely keep it at all? Yet such is the fact. The duty of our rulers on this day is to confess their share in the national sins, to implore pardon for them, and to set about an immediate reformation; if they do not act in this manner, fasting is most undoubtedly on their parts an entire mockery,—not intentional indeed, but the worse perhaps from being without intention of any kind. Now the question is, do they so act? Do they sincerely lament and honestly get rid of their share in the national guilt? Do they proceed the next day to recollect their promises, either to God or man, or in one word, to do away the very smallest corruption in the state? I leave the question to be answered by what every body knows.—It was curious however to see that the day after the late fast was marked by a new refusal on the part of Ministers to enter into the consideration of the Catholic claims,—a question which the Pittites had solemnly pledged themselves to discuss when the Union was effected. On this occasion too, the old Catholic superstitions were urged against our Irish brethren; and one of these superstitions is to fast,—to believe in the religious efficacy of eating a cod's head instead of a calf's. Our civilians laugh at such notions, and go and fast likewise;—they are also shocked at Catholic excommunications, and then go and excommunicate;—in fine, they fall down on their knees and entreat Heaven to bear with them, and the very next day are intolerant to their fellow-creatures. In the mean time the ATTORNEY-GENERAL keeps a sharp eye upon the profane Journalists, to see that none of us treat with disrespect the very men who have just been calling themselves "grievous" sinners and deprecating the "just" punishment of their offences. It may be said that we are grievous sinners likewise and therefore have no business to bring a railing accusation; but surely we may at least condole with our brother offenders, and put them in mind of what they are so extremely anxious to amend? No:—not so:—we must not breathe a syllable about their guilt, though by their own confession it is a national affair and interests us all. They call themselves grievous sinners, but it becomes us to think them innocent;—they represent themselves as deserving the punishment of Heaven; but we must not take them at their word;—they confess that they have a hand in afflicting the nation, but if we agree with them, we shall be indicted!—This is just like the Methodists, who when they are at their devotions make it a point to call themselves every thing that is wretched and sinful; and yet if you tell them that you are of the same opinion, will bring you before the Quarter Sessions. It reminds one of a pleasant passage in *Cælebs*. "In the evening Mrs. RANBY was lamenting in general and rather customary terms, her own exceeding sinfulness, Mr. RANBY said, 'You accuse yourself too heavily, my dear;—you have sins, to be sure.'—'And pray, what sins have I, Mr. RANBY?' said she, turning upon him with so

* Exam. Feb. 25, 1810.

much quickness that the poor man started. 'Nay,' said he meekly, 'I did not mean to offend you: so far from it, that hearing you condemn yourself so grievously, I intended to comfort you, and to say that except a few faults'—'And pray, what faults?' interrupted she, continuing to speak however, lest he should catch an interval to tell them; I defy you, Mr. Ranby, to produce one.'"*

But after all, the people at large by no means imitate the custom of their rulers and agree to eat fish and to call themselves reprobates on this particular day; so that the Ministers and their friends are left in a most sinful minority. Nor is this want of compliance out of any disrespect to the acknowledged duties of repentance, universal or otherwise. It arises from a general conviction, however modified by particular opinions, that a day of fasting and humiliation, enjoined by authority for the propitiation of Heaven, is in it's nature both useless and absurd;—useless, because the devout have already their days of humiliation and the undevout can only make a ceremony of it;—and absurd, because fish-eating is, in the first place, not fasting, and if it were, could have no merit in the sight of Heaven. The consequence is, that although our churches are opened and our shops shut up on a Fast-day, and although John Reeves, Esq. Patentee of the office of King's Printer, in the Introduction to his edition of the Prayer-Book, informs us that "even the Ninevites, who lived in idolatry, had recourse to fasting, as the means which appeared to them the most proper for appeasing the wrath of God," yet, odd as it may appear to that Gentleman and disrespectful to the authority he mentions, not one Englishman in twenty observes the fast in any sense of the word; and thus in progress of time, if we do not take care to prevent the scandal by removing the cause, proclamations on this head will be no more regarded than the observation of Saints' Days, or of King Charles's Martyrdom, or of the *Thanksgiving* Day for the Restoration of his Son,—that Restoration, which inundated the country with vice, and threatened to cut off the religion of the land! The same fate has overtaken the other fasts of the Church, particularly the weekly ones; for however the reader may be startled, our Church really ordains a fast upon every Friday in the year,—not to mention Rogation Days, Ember Days, the Vigils of Festivals, and the great fast in Lent, during which we put on black and go to hear a Jew sing after dinner.—We see how the principle of error contained in these customs is sure to corrupt and destroy them at last; but when was it that any political or religious error ever chose to acknowledge itself with humility, or to die any other death than that of violence or contempt?

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* See Chap. 5, Vol. I. of this acute and singular production, which laughs at a few unreasonable habits of bigotry, in order to adhere with greater shew of rationality to the remainder.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

OFFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FROM THE IMPERIAL ARMIES IN SPAIN.

REPORT OF GENERAL COUNT SUCHET TO THE PRINCE OF WAGRAM AND NEUFCHATEL.

Camp before Valencia, Dec. 29, 1811.

Monseigneur,—After the battle of Sagunto, I remained in my position, with my right at Lyria, my left at Grao, and my centre in the suburbs of Valencia. During this time the enemy collected all the disposable force they had in Murcia, and the other points of Spain.

On the 25th, I repaired to Segorbe, where I reviewed the division of General Count Reille, which I found in the best condition. I am also extremely well satisfied with the division of Severoli. I caused these troops to arrive by a forced march of fifty hours on the banks of the Guadalaviar. On the 26th, two wooden bridges were speedily established, and the artillery threw over a bridge of boats. General Reille began to pass the river. General Harispe advanced upon Torente. General Broussard, at the head of 460 hussars, passed the river, and charged a squadron of the enemy, which he broke, but abandoning himself to the pursuit, he arrived on the line of the insurgents wounded, and fell into the hands of the enemy; his brave Aid-de-Camp, Robart, pursued, making his body a rampart for his defence. The rest of the detachment escaped with only the loss of eight men. Immediately the 4th of hussars, and 15th of cuirasssiers, who were on their march, put themselves on the full trot, and soon came up with the cavalry of the insurgents, which they defeated. The insurgents, however, preserved a good countenance in the entrenched camps of Manisses and Quarte. General Musnier marched straight upon the camp of Manisses. I had ordered the division Palombini to advance upon the right flank of the enemy between Valencia and the entrenched camp. This attack was secondary, but it became principal. It was said the success of this day would be owing principally to the soldiers of Italy. The intrepid Italians crossed the river with the water up to their middle, and charged the enemy with shouts of *viva l'Emperator Re.* (Long live the Emperor and King). General Balathier, at the head of the 2d light, and 3d of the line, Italians, forced several entrenchments, crossed several canals, maintained himself against triple the number of troops, and gave time to the 2d brigade, consisting of the 5th and 6th of the line, to join. Never was Italian courage displayed with greater intrepidity. Fifty dragoons of Napoleon, listening only to their courage, braving the difficulties of the ground, made an extremely brilliant charge. In the mean time the Captain of Engineers, Hewey, caused a bridge to be established, and the works to support it.

The battle continued, when General Robart, whom I have already so much reason to praise, arrived at the head of the 117th, and of the 1st regiment of the Vistula. The entrenched camps of Manisses and Quarte were forced; cannon, baggage, caissons, all were taken. At this moment General Count Reille, with the brigade of Bouetle, and the division Severoli, arriving on Aldaya, entirely turned the enemy. The 9th of hussars charged and made a great number of prisoners, cut off from the road of Murcia. Blake was thrown into Valencia.

While these events were passing, General Harispe, who was appointed to blockade Valencia, and pass the Guadalaviar at its mouth, made himself master of the Lazaret, took from the enemy several pieces of cannon, and made a number of prisoners. Two vessels, two frigates, and a great number of English gunboats, kept up a fire during two hours from 16 pieces of artillery, planted on the mole of the Grao; they were obliged, however, to sheer off. General Harispe arrived at Cantarroja, and took at Afagar a quantity of baggage and ammunition, and one howitzer. An hour before night Valencia was invested on all sides.

All the small entrenched camps were forced, the enemy every where were beaten, two stand of colours, 30 pieces of cannon, and two caissons and the baggage-waggons taken. Part of the

enemy's army having been pursued in the marshes of Albufera, where it has most probably perished. The loss on our side has been sustained principally by the division of Palombini. I have particularly to regret the loss of Colonel Barbieri, of the 2d regiment of Light Infantry, and Captain Ordenave, of the Engineers. We have had 20 officers and 200 soldiers, killed or wounded; amongst the number of the former is Colonel Perpi. The loss of the rest of the army has not exceeded 150 men. The corps of Freyre and of Bassecourt, which were at Requena, are cut off from Valencia.

General Delost arrived at Alcira, on the Zacar, on the 26th. He there fell in with the corps of Mahi and Obispo, which fled with precipitation, after cutting the bridges. The inhabitants hastened to repair them, and received our troops with demonstrations of joy. I expect to open the trenches on the 2d of January before the new town of Valencia, which is about 6000 toises in extent, the left stretched to Oliveto, and the right to the Citadel of that town, both the extremities touching the Guadalaviar. This space is filled with cannon, and for the last three years the whole population of the town has been working on this immense space, which has a large ditch filled with water. Once masters of these works, we shall find ourselves under the old walls of Valencia, which in reality are nothing more than large garden walls. The whole army is actuated by one soul, that of signalizing the commencement of the new year, by sending the keys of Valencia to the Emperor in the course of this month.

The Marshal Count SUCHET.

Camp before Valencia, Jan. 8, 1812.

I omitted in my report of the 29th December, to render your Excellency an account of the attempt made by Blake to retire in the night-time from Valencia, and regain the open country; for which purpose he shewed himself with 12,000 men. They met a lively reception from the brave Poles of the 1st Regiment of the Vistula. Nearly the whole of this column was driven back through the town by the upper bridge. It was with great difficulty that 2 or 300 men were able to gain the mountains, by taking advantage of the obscurity of the night. More than 400 were either killed or drowned in the canals. From this moment desertion has made rapid strides among them; within four days more than 1,500 deserters have presented themselves at our outposts. Between the 30th and 31st, the advanced guards of the 4th division advanced within a short distance of the place: 2000 Spaniards, with two pieces of cannon, made a sortie to repulse them. General Severoli immediately brought forward a battalion of the 1st Italian Regiment, who attacked them under the fire of the walls, repulsed them, and forced them to re-enter.

On the 29th of December the avant guard entered St. Philippe, 15 leagues from Valencia, and half of the distance to Alicant, where it took a million of cartridges, and a great quantity of rice. The inhabitants of this town, which contains about 15,000 souls, came out to meet us, and conducted themselves well. I shall cause Alcira, situated on a point of the island of Xucar, to be ————, it being a very advantageous position for actual operations. The troops escaped from the environs of Valencia, are attempting to rally between Alicant and Alcoy. In the night between the 1st and 2d of January, the trenches were opened by 3000 men, at 80 toises from the works of St. Vicente and Oliveto. The General Count Pannetier, who had on the same day arrived at the camp with his brigade, was by the rules of seniority appointed to the command of the trenches, which were pushed with vigour, and would have been perfectly successful, had not Col. Henri, of the engineers, received a mortal wound. This superior officer is regretted by the whole army: in the space of two years he has led on the attack of seven different sieges. Notwithstanding the fire kept up by the enemy, our works continued day and night until five o'clock in the morning; the artillery for raising of five batteries, and for arming two within 60 toises of the works, was already arrived, whilst the engineers had proceeded within 15 toises of the ditch. The rapid progress of these works, and the astonishing desertion sustained by the enemy, determined them on abandoning their lines, fortified as they were at so much trouble and expence. At break of day, Col. Beloti, Commander in the trenches before Oliveto, caused the ditch to be passed, and soon threw 300 grenadiers into that fort, where they found 20 pieces of cannon. Gen. Montmaree adopted the same measure against St. Vicente, by possessing himself of the suburbs, and pushing the enemy's posts back into the city.

I made no delay in convincing myself of the whole importance of the vasts works which the enemy had abandoned to us, together with 81 pieces of cannon; and immediately directed Gen. Palombino to possess himself of the suburb de Quarte, and to drive the enemy into the place; which was performed with the greatest promptitude. I wished to profit by the disorder which such an event would cause in this great city, and ordered the bombardment to commence, which was accordingly done, and was prolonged throughout the whole of the day. On the morning of the 6th, I, considering that an army which had just abandoned works of such strength, mounted with 81 guns, and the terrible effects of the bombardment on an immense population, would have called upon Gen. Blake to capitulate, charged my first Aid-de-Camp, Col. Meyer, to be the bearer of my proposals, and to express my desire of saving a great city from ruin; but he was neither permitted to enter the city nor to see Gen. Blake. At noon to-day I received his reply. This General is no longer the Master; he is obliged to obey the decisions of a fanatical Junta, composed of seven persons, five of whom are Franciscan Monks, and the other two butchers of Valencia: the same who, about three years ago, ordered the massacre of 400 French families that were driven out of the country. I therefore continue my operations with vigour against the place, which at this present moment counts a population of 200,000. Five of the principal Chiefs of the insurgents are now within its walls, with all their property, and whatever Spain possesses of fanatics or madmen.

Marshal Count SUCHET.

Head-quarters, Valencia, Jan. 12.

MONSEIGNEUR,—I beg your Serene Highness to announce to his Majesty the Emperor, that his orders have been executed; Valencia has submitted to his arms. The rapid movements of the 26th of December forced the enemy to retire into their fortified lines; the pursuit of the troops which escaped from Valencia to San Phillippe deprived Blake of all hope of succour; the investment was finished with perseverance. The army, thirsting for glory, sought dangers; and with the greatest valour, repulsed three sorties. The boldness of the engineers, who, in the nights of the 1st and 2d of January, opened trenches within from seventy to eighty toises of the enemy's works, and who in four days and four nights carried their mines within fifty toises of the fosse; the surprising efforts of the artillery, who erected batteries at sixty toises, and which they succeeded in arming, notwithstanding the rains and dreadful roads; the constancy of the infantry in sharing in all these labours, caused the abandonment of the enemy's lines, defended by eighty pieces of cannon. These lines are six thousand toises in extent. Valencia expended 12,000,000 of reals, and employed some thousands of men for two years in erecting them.

On the 5th I commenced the bombardment, and on the 6th offered a capitulation, which being refused, I redoubled our fire, and in three days and three nights, 2700 bombs were thrown into the city, causing explosions, and several vast fires. The artillery, by a praise-worthy emulation, succeeded in erecting two batteries, manned with ten twenty-four pounders each, ready to make a breach in the interior defence. The engineers had effected a lodgment in the last houses of the suburbs, and placed mines under two of the principal gates of the town; when General Blake, fearing the terrible and near approach of an assault, accepted the following capitulation, which places in the power of the Emperor the city of Valencia, 374 pieces of artillery, 180,000lbs. of powder, 3,000,000 of cartridges, 16,131 prisoners of the line, according to the accompanying statement delivered by the General in Chief of the Spanish Staff, and 1950 in the hospitals of Valencia and Valdigna; 1800 cavalry and artillery horses, 21 stand of colours, 893 Officers, 22 Generals or Brigadiers, among whom are Zayas and Lardizabel, commanding the expeditionary divisions; Miranda, Marco, and Ponte, Commander of the Valencian army;

Sea, Commandant of the Cavalry; the Marquis of Rocca, &c. 4 Lieut. Generals, 6 Field Marshals, and a number of Colonels; General in Chief O'Donnel, and Captain General Blake.

On this occasion the insurgents have experienced an irreparable loss; they lost fifty good artillery officers, formed in the school of Segovia; 383 miners and sappers, and 1400 old artillery men; among which are four fine companies of horse-artillery. The disarming of the militia is proceeded in, and will soon be completed.

Your Serene Highness will perceive, by reading the 4th article of the Capitulation, that I have seized occasion to fulfil the beneficent wishes of the Emperor, in obtaining the speedy return to the army of 2000 French or allies prisoners, and the hope of a still more considerable exchange.—I am, with respect, &c. SUCHET.

[By the Capitulation, the City of Valencia was to be delivered to the French; religion to be respected and the inhabitants and their property protected. No enquiry, with respect to the past, was to be made into the conduct of those who have taken an active part in the war or revolution. Those who wish to quit the place within three months, will be allowed to do so. The officers preserve their swords, as well as their horses and equipages; and the soldiers their knapsacks.—General Blake, offering to give up the French, or allies of France, prisoners in Majorca, Alicant, and Carthagena, an equal number of Spaniards shall remain in places in the power of the French, till this exchange shall be effected, man for man, and rank for rank.]

Head-quarters, Valencia, Jan. 13.

MONSEIGNEUR,—On the 10th in the morning, the insurgent army, shut up in Valencia, defiled before the French eagles; its march lasted till night. General Blake, chief of the insurrection, and six of his Aides-de-Camp, have set out, escorted by Captain Pech; I have ordered them to Pau. General Count Pannetier has set out with the first column of 7000 prisoners, by the route of Terruel: a similar column takes the route of Tortosa. I have sent to St. Philippe a column of 2000 prisoners, in order to exchange all the French prisoners in Majorca and Cadiz.—The disarming of the Militia proceeds with the greatest activity, and tranquillity has already been established in this fine Province. I have appointed General Robert, Commandant of the town. General Harispe, with his division, occupies St. Philippe, and pushes his parties towards Alicant.—We daily discover new magazines of arms and clothing, furnished by the English. Their soi-disant Consul, Tupper, was firebrand of the insurrection: he spared neither gold, nor promises, nor libels, to irritate mens' minds. The Spaniards bitterly complain of being incessantly impelled to desperate measures by the English, and afterwards finding themselves abandoned by them. What is to me a particular object of the utmost satisfaction is, that so considerable a result has occasioned no losses. I am, with respect, SUCHET.

[By a decree of the 24th January, the French Emperor has named Count Suchet to be the Duke of Albufera.]

PORTUGAL.

OPORTO, JAN. 27.—We have heard of the fall of Valencia and also of that of Ciudad Rodrigo, in which there was a garrison of 3000 French, and 1300 of them perished in the storming of the fortress; the rest were made prisoners. The enemy's divisions are in motion. Marmont is bringing up his troops by forced marches, and Dorsenne is coming down from Salamanca to join him. Lord Wellington expects General Hill to join him immediately, when it is supposed he will have force sufficient to meet Marmont. Great events are on the eve of taking place, and a battle, according to all accounts, appears unavoidable.

IRELAND.

TRIAL OF THE CATHOLIC DELEGATES.

Our readers will recollect the late acquittal of Doctor Sheridan, and the joy occasioned by this event through Ireland. We have now to state that the Attorney-General having proceeded to the trials of the other delegates, Mr. Kirwan has been found *guilty*.—The trial commenced January the 27th. Before the jury were sworn, the counsel for Mr. Kirwan made a general challenge of the pannel, on the ground of undue influence on the part of government in their selection. Two triers were sworn to give a verdict on this point, and several witnesses were examined on oath. The Sheriff, Mr. James, it plainly appeared, had conducted himself in the most honourable manner, having refused a list of the jury to the Solicitor for the Crown, when the latter *applied for it*:—but it was proved that the Under Secretary of State, Sir Charles Saxton, by some means got possession of a copy, over which he and the Crown Solicitor consulted, and affixed various *private marks* of expressive meaning against *particular names*. Several of the gentlemen originally included in the list were left out, agreeably to the marks, and numbers of the others changed, so as to stand higher or lower, and thus rendered liable to be in the box. The Court, however, gave an opinion that the Jury had been *impartially* selected, *and so the triers found*.

JAN. 28.—The Petty Jury were about to be sworn, when Mr. Burrowes stated, that he was instructed to make several challenges, but he would waive them all, on the single condition that each individual of the Jury should declare that he was not an Orangeman. This was declined. The Jury, after some discussion, were sworn. The Attorney-General addressed them. He stated that he would willingly have dropped the prosecutions after the acquittal of Dr. Sheridan; but the Catholic Committee had continued to meet, in defiance of the Convention Act, which forbids delegation. He described the Committee as a National Assembly, consisting of no less than 500 persons, a number exceeding the late legislature of the country, professing to represent the Catholics. All the horrors of civil war were in perspective, said the Attorney-General, but with the blessing of God, if we stand by one another, and are true to ourselves, the Government at both sides of the water are determined to put it down, and will never cease until they put an end to an Assembly that comes to beard the Government at its very seat,—the metropolis of the country.

It was proved in evidence that Mr. Kirwan, the defendant, was present at the Committee.

The different Counsel addressed the Jury, who, on the 30th, found a verdict of *Guilty*.

PROVINCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

AGRICULTURAL REPORT FOR JANUARY.

The dry weather through the month has proved very favourable to the young plants of wheat, which in most counties hold a good colour, and wear in other respects a promising appearance. A considerable extent of broad beans have already been got in by the drill and dibble in Kent, Essex, and Suffolk. The markets for bread and corn have been fortunately kept down from the large importations of foreign flour, of which there is a considerable supply in hand. Our own wheat crop of last year is much diminished in most districts. The potatoe crops turn out abundant, and, from the mildness of the winter, have kept better than has been known for several years past. The turnip counties continue to abound in feed. The hay markets have experienced but little variation. Smithfield, and most of the principle cattle marts, have been well supplied through the month, but on some advance of prices, particularly for veal, house-lamb, and pig pork. Some droves of lean beasts have come up from the north into Leicestershire and other central counties, and, from the openness of the weather, have sold high. Nothing has been done in the wool market to occasion any alteration in the value of short or long fleeces since the last month's report.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Nothing of interest occurred in this House last week.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, Feb. 3.

THE CATHOLICS—STATE OF IRELAND.

Lord MORPETH moved, "that the House do resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, to take into consideration the present State of Ireland,"—a measure which his Lordship thought essential to the very safety of the Empire, as the unjust privations so long suffered by the Catholics of Ireland evidently endangered the general welfare in these times of danger, when the united strength of the country was absolutely necessary to resist an enterprizing and powerful foe.

Sir JOHN NICHOL said, that the concessions required by the Catholics would, if granted, endanger the existence of the Constitution, which consisted of Church and State. Two religions in the State were not congenial to its safety.

Mr. CANNING was of opinion that the demands of the Catholics were perfectly natural and just, and hoped that at no great distance of time mutual concession and concord would take place. He thought, however, that this was not the proper time to agitate the question, and he should therefore oppose the motion.

Mr. HUTCHINSON, on the contrary, was decidedly of opinion that this was the very best time to strengthen the nation, by a wise and upright conduct to the Irish People. Their claims were just—they ought never to renounce them—and he was fully persuaded that there could be no safety for the Empire till they were accorded.

Mr. PEELE thought otherwise. The Catholics wanted to be placed upon an equality with their Protestant brethren. To this he could not consent.

Sir A. PIGOTT was satisfied that the concessions required were highly expedient, and therefore they ought to be granted immediately.

Mr. WELLESLEY POLE entered upon a justification of the conduct of the Irish Government in the late transactions, contending that it was equally agreeable to law and reason. The Catholic Convention was an illegal assembly, assuming all the powers of a Parliament. As to the Catholic Claims, he hoped that something might be done to meet the wishes and tranquillize the minds of so large a portion of the Empire; but he deprecated all idea of granting any thing to turbulence and riot.

Mr. SHERIDAN could not conceive that the Cause of the Catholics was at all affected by the want of temper and conduct of some of its advocates. It was a just one, and that was a sufficient reason for its being complied with.

The debate was here adjourned.

Tuesday, Feb. 4.

The debate on the State of Ireland was resumed.

Sir JOHN NEWPORT deprecated the idea of driving the Catholics to petition by General Assemblies and not by delegation. Had he been near Dublin when the Privy Council met, he should have gone and protested against the insane proceedings of the Government.

Mr. C. ADAMS was convinced that the Right Hon. Gentleman (Mr. W. Pole) had only done his duty. He should vote against the motion.

Mr. W. FITZGERALD was of opinion that the claims of the Catholics might one day be complied with; but this was not the proper time.

Sir JOHN SEBRIGHT said, that as long as the Catholics stood in a menacing posture, they should find an enemy in him. They had a right to Emancipation, but they should receive it with gratitude as a boon.

Mr. C. WYNNE deemed the conduct of the Irish Government ill advised and insulting.

Mr. MANNERS SUTTON thought the present time most unfit for the proposed inquiry. It would only tend to inflame.

Mr. PARNELL warmly supported the motion of his Noble Friend. The Catholics were entitled to their rights, unless it could be shewn that the granting of those rights would involve in danger the general interests of the country. They only claimed that, an abstinence from claiming which would, in his opinion, render them unworthy the name of British subjects.

Lord CASTLEREAGH had always thought that the measure of the Union would be incomplete without some concessions to the Catholics, and that their claims were likely to meet with fewer obstacles in a Parliament of the Empire than in the Irish Parliament; but he had never supposed that such claims could be granted without some arrangement being devised, which would be satisfactory to the feelings of the Protestants. It appeared to him, that there was nothing more likely to injure the cause of the Catholics, or to give spirits to the common enemy from the hope of internal disunion, than the vague manner in which this question had been brought before Parliament year after year. He wished the real difficulties of the case to be fairly sounded; and when the question should be divested of all the difficulties which did not properly belong to it, he then wished that the principle of the claim should have fair play.—In that case it would be for the deliberate wisdom of Parliament to determine, whether concessions made to the Catholics might not be made perfectly reconcileable to the security of the Constitution and our establishments.

Mr. WHITBREAD would give his decided vote for the Inquiry. He strongly recommended conciliatory measures.—Much, he observed, had been said about menacing attitudes; history had furnished proofs of the folly of waiting for those attitudes. Did not the British Government talk of attitudes with respect to America, and would not yield? but when America was in a menacing attitude, they were compelled to yield, and now, instead of having to contend with rebels, as they were styled, this country had to combat with an independent people. (*Hear, hear!*) The Hon. Gentleman instanced the happy state of the Swiss Cantons, worshipping as they did for 200 years in the same Church, though professing different religions, and that happy state might have continued but for the cursed interruption of the French. The Right Hon. Secretary had charged his Friends with what they had not uttered: while riding in his post-chaise, and reading the debates in the newspaper, he takes for true all that the *Morning Post* chose to put in their mouths, and then attacks them for it. He had no fear for the Established Church from the concessions being granted; if it did fall, it must be by its own indolence and want of foresight.

Mr. Secretary RYDER considered that it would have amounted to a criminal violation of the trust reposed in the Government, if they had neglected to take measures for preventing the meetings, and to enforce the provisions of the Convention Act. The claims of the Catholics were not recognised by the country at large—there was a general disposition against them, which had been increased in consequence of their late proceedings.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL vindicated the conduct of the Law Officers and the Judges of the Irish Bench, in giving the opinion which they had delivered—that the meeting of the Catholic Delegates was a violation of the Convention Act.

Mr. PONSONBY entreated the House not to alienate Ireland, as America had been lost. They should recollect how the Irish Catholics fought, bled, and conquered in our fleets and armies, and were yet excluded from the blessings of the Constitution. Ireland not only formed a chief part of our strength, but upon her cordial co-operation and assistance in the present crisis of our affairs, must depend the security and safety of the British Empire.

Mr. PERCEVAL said, that those who felt great affection and zeal for the Roman Catholic claims, had much reason to complain at the want of wisdom in the way of introducing the question, the object of which seemed to be, to shew a certain strength and importance in that House, when, as had been said, the existence of the present Administration was drawing to its termination, and by a strong vote to display the strength of their competitors. (*Hear, hear!*) He called on those who were sensible of the unfairness of the motion, not to be entrapped by this sort of management. As to the conduct of the Irish Government, he was convinced that the unanimous opinion of the Judges in Ireland, which was since confirmed by the verdict of a Jury, would form a sufficient defence for the Government. As to the Catholic claims, he retained his former opi-

nious, having always said that he could not foresee the time when they could be conceded with safety. The Catholics were perfectly ready to receive, but not to make any concessions. The two great points were, security from foreign influence, and from danger to our own establishments. He then read some passages from Lord Grenville's letter to Lord Fingal, from which he shewed, that though Lord G. was not pledged to the *veto*, yet he demanded some equivalent to it for securing an establishment in Church and State, which he considered necessary in the views, not of bigots, but of enlightened men. Lord G. even added, that if nothing of that sort could be done, he should despair, alluding to arrangements respecting the nomination of Bishops. Unless the House knew of some security, he (Mr. F.) contended, they would only be deluding the Catholics by going into a Committee; but had any person heard of any proposition of the kind that the Catholics would accept? Those engaged in this cause for years, could not venture to propose any specific measure; he could not therefore see the probability of any event which would render the concessions safe, or a security acceptable.

Mr. GRATTAN did not say whether the Catholics of Ireland had acted right or wrong; but this he would say, that their petition ought to be attended to. If they have a Convention it is your own faults, and they have spirit to feel it as such. If you defeat the prayer of humble petitioners, you raise their minds and ideas to say, "We must get by force what has been so often refused us." Will you force a man to take the oath of Lucifer, to swear to what he does not believe? *(Hear, hear!)* Much had been said about the barbarity of the Irish peasant. The remark was a greater reflection upon England: for the barbarisms would not bear comparison. *(Hear, hear!)* It was not the peasant that was then in question, but the Roman Catholic Nobility and Gentry of Ireland, who wished, nay, who considered themselves in a state of slavery, until they are put on a footing with their fellow-men.—In the case of a French invasion, if the Catholics joined them, it would not be their fault, but ours, from not granting them their rights.—*(Hear, hear!)*—The establishment of the Church of England was perfectly right, but was that a reason that they would make those of another religion slaves?—The Right Hon. Gentleman appealed in a forcible manner to the honesty of the English people against the unjust conduct of their Rulers, and would never believe that they would consent to disqualify at once four millions of their fellow-citizens, from whom they derived such considerable resources, and whose best blood was daily shed in the defence of the country.—England and Ireland, he concluded, must stand or fall together, on equal laws and equal privileges.

Mr. TIERNEY shortly contended that the State of Ireland notoriously called for inquiry and conciliation.

The House then divided—Ayes, 135—Noes, 229—Majority against the Motion, 94.—Adjourned to Thursday.

Thursday, Feb. 6.

NOTTINGHAM RIOTS.

Mr. WHITBREAD wished to know whether there was any objection to the institution of an inquiry into the riotous proceedings at Nottingham, which had for three months continued to scandalize the country?

Mr. Secretary RYDER had reason to believe that the scandalous scenes alluded to had much subsided within the last few days.

Mr. WHITBREAD thought there had been gross neglect on the part of Government.

EAST INDIA COMPANY.

Mr. WALLACE moved that the Committee on East India Affairs be renewed.

Mr. CREEVEY said, that the Committee had been sitting five years already, yet not one human being was a tittle the wiser for all they had discovered or communicated. He should propose a Committee of the whole House to consider the State of the India Company. In such a Committee, he should move several Resolutions, shewing that the Company had agreed to pay 500,000*l.* per ann. for their exclusive Charter, which they had only once paid [illegible] years, while a loan of 1,500,000*l.* had been made to them; that their debt had increased to the enormous sum of 30,000,000*l.*;—that their bond debt now amounted to 7,000,000*l.*;—that the accumulation of twelve millions as a security for their capital, had failed entirely.——*(Hear, hear!)*—A paper would be laid on the table, by which it would appear that the amount of the Property Tax for 1811 was 1,100,000*l.* less than that of 1810. This loss could not have been on the stock or the land of the country, and therefore must have been on the trade merely. The result was, that if the tenth of the trade had suffered such a loss, the whole loss must amount to 11,000,000*l.*—Such was the distress of Liverpool, that the persons receiving relief in that town had increased of late from 8 to 15,000.—It was high time, therefore, that British Merchants were put at least on the same footing as Foreigners, who were allowed to carry on a prosperous trade to the East Indies.—Whatever, however, should be done, he must solemnly protest against the idea of transferring the revenues of the India Company to the Crown, the influence of which was already so overwhelming.

Mr. GRANT affirmed, that the Company did not wish to resist the extension of commercial intercourse with India from any principle of jealousy. The expectation entertained, by the commercial part of the nation, of the great advantages to be derived from an open trade to India, would in all probability end in disappointment.

Mr. PERCEVAL was of opinion that the House would find no difficulty in throwing open the trade to India to a great extent, without infringing the Company's Charter.—He was surprised at the statement of the Hon. Gentleman respecting the amount of the Property Tax for 1811. He apprehended that the deficiency would not be more than 289,000*l.* which could by no means warrant a desponding picture of the financial state of the nation. It should be recollected that the tax for 1810, had been much more productive than any former year, and therefore it was not fair to confine the comparison to that year. The great amount of 1810 arose from the collection of arrears, which of course could not be permanent. But on an average of several years, the revenue had increased.

Mr. BROUGHAM said, that it was notorious that a negociation was going on between Government and the Company, in silence, and Parliament was only to be applied to, to seal the contract. He should vote for a Committee of the whole House.

Mr. WHITBREAD and Lord FOLKESTONE were for an enlarged enquiry.

Mr. WALLACE's motion for a Select Committee was then carried.—Adjourned.

Friday, Feb. 7.

OFFICES IN REVERSION BILL.

Mr. W. DUNDAS opposed the passing of this Bill, for which measure he had heard no substantial reasons. The Lords too, would dismiss it, if passed by them.

Mr. BANKES said, that the opposition of the Lords might not be continued. The granting of places in reversion was highly injurious to the public service, as well as to the real interest of the Crown.

Mr. PERCEVAL contended that the measure would neither decrease the influence of the Crown nor serve the purposes of economy. The question regarding the abolition of Sinecure Places should be disposed of, before the present one. He should oppose the second reading.

Sir SAMUEL ROMILLY was quite surprized to hear the measure considered as one of little importance. In his opinion it would be beneficial both to the King and the Country.

Mr. WHITBREAD observed that the Bill had been very naturally opposed by two Reversionists. It was quite notorious that the Right Hon. Gentleman, on the death of Lord Arden, would succeed to an enormous Sinecure; and was not the Paymastership of Widows Pensions (another Sinecure) given away the other day to Col. M'Mahon? How could it be said that this matter had nothing to do with economy?

Mr. PONSONBY argued that the Bill should pass, in order to preserve the consistency of the House. If the Bill was now rejected, the Public *might imagine* that the House was under the influence of the Minister. Such an opinion would tend to

lessen and degrade the *character* of Parliament!—*(Hear, hear! but no laughing.)*

The House, on a division, voted that the Bill should be read a second time this day six months, that is, dismissed.—Only 112 Members voted. The majority amounted to four.

PENALTY OF DEATH.

Sir S. ROMILLY moved the Repeal of the Act of the 39th of Queen Elizabeth, which made it a capital offence for a Soldier or Sailor to be seen begging in the streets without a pass from their Officers. This act had been deemed by Judge Blackstone a disgrace to the Statute Book.—Sir SAMUEL here gave notice, that he should not at present bring forward any of the Bills he had formerly presented. He had not at all altered his opinion as to the necessity of amending the Criminal Code; but he understood that there was no chance whatever of his Bills passing the other House. He should therefore wait until prejudice had subsided.

Mr. FRANKLIN observed, that the Statute was not now in force, and that it was passed for a very useful purpose.

Sir S. ROMILLY remarked, this was not the only Statute which disgraced the reign of Queen Elizabeth: there was one which made it felony to be found in the company of Egyptians! and another which made it felony to commune with the Devil! Men's lives should not be subjected to such laws.

Leave given to bring in the Bill.

Mr. Secretary RYDER, alluding to his former assertion that the late atrocities were caused by the return of felons from transportation,—now said, that he had been so told by two Magistrates; but he had since been informed, there was a great diversity of opinion on this subject among the Magistrates. He therefore could not state that such was the cause.

Adjourned till Monday.

TUESDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

This Gazette contains a Letter from Capt. Rowley, of the Eagle, dated Brindisi, November 28, detailing an account of the capture of La Corceyre, French frigate, pierced for forty guns, but having only twenty eight on board, with one hundred and seventy seamen, and one hundred and thirty soldiers, laden with three hundred tons of wheat, and a quantity of military stores, bound to Corfu.—The Corceyre was taken after a chace of ten hours.—She was accompanied by the Uranie French frigate, of 40 guns, and Scemplone brig, of 14 guns, also laden with wheat and stores; but they both escaped.

The Gazette contains also an account of the destruction of a French gun-brig, which was run on shore by the boats of the Rinaldo sloop, Capt. Anderson, near Waldam.

BANKRUPTCY SUPERSEDED.

Wm. Glazbrook, Goswell-terrace, Goswell-road, toy-manufacturer.

BANKRUPTS.

Wm. Glazbrook, Goswell-terrace, Goswell-road, toy-manufacturer.
G. Theakston and R. T. Wood, Walworth, merchants.
S. Brown and J. E. Wilson, White Friars, flour-factors.
J. Broadley, Pig's Lee, Lancashire, dyer.
W. Tindale, Ainderby, Yorkshire, farmer.
J. Higham, Brewer-street, Golden-square, dealer.
A. Willis, Chigwell-row, Essex, widow.
D. Sellers, Old Compton-street, Soho, colourman.
W. Cross, Liverpool, draper.
R. Stott, Little Clegg, Lancashire, wollen-draper.
W. Hodson, Birmingham, glass-maker.
H. Penlerthy, Helston, Cornwall, mercer.
J. Hughes, Liverpool, draper.
R. Gylles, St. Ives, Cornwall, cooper.
W. Everitt, Golden-lane, grocer.
J. Craig and J. Davies, Basinghall-street, merchants.
W. Barnard, Lloyd's Coffee-house, underwriter.
J. and T. Ashley, Primrose-street, Bishopsgate-street, silk-weavers.
R. Sargeant, Slough, Bucks, carpenter.
W. Lowndes, Wheelock, Chester, cotton-spinner.

LONDON GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY,

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1812.

Downing-street, February 4, 1812.

Major the Hon. A. Gordon has arrived this evening at Lord Liverpool's Office with a Dispatch, addressed to his Lordship by General Viscount Wellington, dated Gallegos, 20th January, 1812:—

MY LORD,—I informed your Lordship in my Dispatch of the 9th, that I had attacked Ciudad Rodrigo, and in that of 15th, of the progress of the operations to that period; and I have now the pleasure to acquaint your Lordship that we took the place by storm yesterday evening after dark.

We continued from the 15th to the 19th to complete the second parallel, and the communication with that work; and we had made some progress by sap towards the crest of the glacis. On the night of the 15th we likewise advanced from the left of the first parallel down the slope of the hill, towards the convent of St. Francisco, to a situation from which the walls of the Fausse Braye and of the town were seen, on which a battery of seven guns was constructed, and they commenced their fire on the morning of the 18th.

In the mean time, the batteries in the first parallel continued their fire; and yesterday evening their fire had not only considerably injured the defences of the place, but had made breaches in the Fausse Braye wall, and in the body of the place, which were considered practicable; while the battery on the slope of the hill, which had been commenced on the night of the 15th and had opened on the 18th, had been equally efficient, still further to the left, and opposite to the suburb of St. Francisco.

I therefore determined to storm the place, notwithstanding that the approaches had not been brought to the crest of the glacis, and the counterscarp of the ditch was still entire. The attack was accordingly made yesterday evening in five separate columns, consisting of the troops of the 3d and light division, and of Brigadier-Gen. Pack's brigade. The two right columns, conducted by Lieut.-Col. O'Toole, of the 2d Caçadores, and Major Ridge, of the 5th regiment, were destined to protect the advance of Major-Gen. Mackinnon's brigade, forming the 3d, to the top of the breach in the Fausse Braye wall, and all these, being composed of troops of the 3d division, were under the direction of Lieut.-Gen. Picton.

The fourth column, consisting of the 43d and 52d regiments, and part of the 95th regiment, being of the light division under the direction of Major-Gen. Craufurd, attacked the breaches on the left, in front of the suburb of St. Francisco, and covered the left of the attack of the principal breach by the troops of the 3d division; and Brigadier-Gen. Pack was destined with his brigade, forming the 5th column, to make a false attack upon the southern face of the fort. Besides these five columns, the 94th regiment, belonging to the 3d division, descended into the ditch in two columns on the right of Major-Gen. Mackinnon's brigade, with a view to protect the descent of that body into the ditch, and its attack of the breach in the Fausse Braye, against the obstacles, which it was supposed the enemy would construct to oppose their progress.

All these attacks succeeded; and Brigadier-Gen. Pack even surpassed my expectations, having converted his false attack into a real one, and his advanced guard, under the command of Major Lynch, having followed the enemy's troops from the advanced works into the Fausse Braye, where they made prisoners of all opposed to them.

Major Ridge, of the 2d battalion of the 5th regiment, having escaladed the Fausse Braye wall, stormed the principal breach in the body of the place, together with the 94th regiment, commanded by Lieut.-Col. Campbell, which had moved along the ditch at the same time, and had stormed the breach in the Fausse Braye, both in front of Major-Gen. Mackinnon's brigade. Thus these regiments not only effectually covered the

advance from the trenches of Major-Gen. Mackinnon's brigade, by their first movements and operations, but they preceded them in the attack.

Major-General Craufurd and Major-General Vandeleur, and the troops of the light division on the left, were likewise very forward on that side; and in less than half an hour from the time the attack commenced, our troops were in possession of and formed on the ramparts of the place, each body contiguous to the other. The enemy then submitted, having sustained a considerable loss in the contest.

Our loss was also, I am concerned to add, severe, particularly in officers of high rank and estimation in this army. Major-General Mackinnon was unfortunately blown up by the accidental explosion of one of the enemy's expence magazines, close to the breach, after he had gallantly and successfully led the troops under his command to the attack. Major-General Craufurd likewise received a severe wound while he was leading on the light division to the storm, and I am apprehensive that I shall be deprived for some time of his assistance. Major-Gen. Vandeleur was likewise wounded in the same manner, but not so severely, and he was able to continue in the field. I have to add to this list Lieut.-Colonel Colborne of the 52d regiment, and Major George Napier, who led the storming party of the Light Division, and was wounded on the top of the breach.

I have great pleasure in reporting to your Lordship the uniform good conduct, spirit of enterprise, and patience and perseverance in the performance of great labour, by which the general officers, officers and troops of the 1st, 3d, 4th, and Light Divisions, and Brigadier-General Pack's Brigade, by whom the siege was carried on, have been distinguished during the late operations. Lieut.-General Graham assisted me in superintending the conduct of the details of the siege, besides performing the duties of the general officer commanding the first division; and I am much indebted to the suggestions and assistance I received from him for the success of this enterprise.

The conduct of all parts of the third division, in the operations which they performed with so much gallantry and exactness on the evening of the 19th, in the dark, afford the strongest proof of the abilities of Lieut.-General Picton and Major-Gen. Mackinnon, by whom they were directed and led: but I beg particularly to draw your Lordship's attention to the conduct of Lieut.-Colonel O'Toole of the 2d battalion 5th Foot, of Lieut.-Colonel Campbell of the 94th Regiment, of Major Manners of the 74th, and of Major Grey of the 2d battalion 5th Foot, who has been twice wounded during the siege.

It is but justice also to the 3d division to report, that the men who performed the sap belonged to the 45th, 74th, and 88th Regiments, under the command of Captain M'Leod of the Royal Engineers, and Captain Thomson of the 74th, Lieut. Beresford of the 88th, and Lieut. Metcalfe of the 45th, and they distinguished themselves not less in the storm of the place, than they had in the the performance of their laborious duty during the siege.

I have already reported in my letter of the 9th inst. my sense of the conduct of Major-General Craufurd, and of Lieut.-Col. Colborne, and of the troops of the light division in the storm of the redoubt of St. Francisco, on the evening of the 8th instant. The conduct of these troops was equally distinguished throughout the siege; and in the storm, nothing could exceed the gallantry with which these brave officers and troops advanced and accomplished the difficult operation allotted to them, notwithstanding that all their leaders had fallen.

I particularly request your Lordship's attention to the conduct of Major-General Craufurd, Major-General Vandeleur, Lieut.-Col. Barnard of the 95th, Lieut.-Colonel Colborne, Major Gibbs, and Major Napier, of the 52d, and Lieutenant-Colonel M'Leod of the 43d. The conduct of Captain Duffey of the 43d, and that of Lieut. Curwood of the 52d regiment, who was wounded, have likewise been particularly reported to me; Lieut.-Colonel Elder, and 3d Cacadores, were likewise distinguished upon this occasion.

The first Portuguese Regiment, under Lieut.-Colonel Hill, and the 16th under Colonel Campbell, being Brigadier-Gen. Pack's brigade, were likewise distinguished in the storm, under the command of the Brigadier-General, who particularly mentions Major Lynch.

In my dispatch of the 15th, I reported to your Lordship the attack of the Convent of Santa Cruz, by the troops of the first division, under the direction of Lieut.-General Graham; and that of the Convent of Saint Francisco, on the 14th inst. under the direction of Major-General the Hon. C. Colville. The first mentioned enterprize was performed by Captain Laroche de Srakenfels, of the first Line Battalion King's German Legion; the last by Lieut.-Colonel Harcourt with the 40th regiment. This regiment remained from that time in the suburb of Saint Francisco, and materially assisted our attack on that side of the place.

Although it did not fall to the lot of the troops of the 1st and 4th divisions to bring these operations to their successful close, they distinguished themselves throughout their progress by the patience and perseverance with which they performed the labours of the siege. The brigade of Guards, under Major-Gen. H. Campbell, was particularly distinguished in this respect.

I likewise request your Lordship's attention to the conduct of Lieut.-Colonel Fletcher, the chief engineer, and of brigade Major Jones, and the officers and men of the Royal Engineers. The ability with which these operations were carried on exceeds all praise; and I beg leave to recommend those officers to your Lordship most particularly.

Major Dickson, of the Royal Artillery, attached to the Portuguese artillery, has for some time had the direction of the heavy train attached to this army, and has conducted the intricate details of the late operation, as he did those of the late sieges of Badajoz, in the last summer, much to my satisfaction. The rapid execution produced by a well-directed fire kept up from our batteries, afford the best proof of the merits of the officers and men of the Royal Artillery, and of the Portuguese artillery employed on this occasion. But I must particularly mention Brigade Major May, and Captains Holcombe, Power, Dyneley, and Dundas, of the Royal Artillery, and Captains Da Cunha and Da Corta, and Lieut. Silva, of the 1st regiment of Portuguese artillery.

I have likewise particularly to report to your Lordship the conduct of Major Sturgeon, of the Royal Staff Corps. He constructed and placed for us the bridge over the Agueda, without which the enterprize could not have been attempted, and he afterwards materially assisted Lieut.-Gen. Graham and myself, in our reconnoissance of the place, on which the plan of the attack was founded; and he finally conducted the 2d battalion 5th regiment, as well as the 2d Caçadores, to their points of attack.

The Adjutant-General, and the Deputy Quarter-Master-General, and the Officers of the several departments, gave me every assistance throughout this service, as well as those of my personal staff; and I have great pleasure in adding, that, notwithstanding the season of the year, and the increased difficulties of procuring supplies for the troops, the whole army have been well supplied, and every branch of the service provided for during the late operations by the indefatigable exertions of Mr. Commissary Bisset, and the officers belonging to his department.

The Marshal del Campo, Don Carlos d'Espana, and Don Julian Sanchez, observed the enemy's movements beyond the Tormes, during the operations of the siege; and I am much obliged to them, and to the people of Castille in general, for the assistance I received from them. The latter have invariably shewn their detestation of the French tyranny, and their desire to contribute by every means in their power to remove it.

I will hereafter transmit to your Lordship a detailed account of what we have found in the place; but I believe there are one hundred and fifty-three pieces of ordnance, including the heavy train belonging to the French army, and great quantities of ammunition and stores. We have the Governor, General Banier, about 28 officers, and 1700 men, prisoners.

I transmit this dispatch by my Aid-de-Camp, the Hon. Major Gordon, who will give your Lordship any further details you may require; and I beg leave to recommend him to your protection.—I have the honour to be, &c. WELLINGTON.

I inclose a return of the prisoners and of the ordnance which have been taken on this occasion. I have not yet been able to collect the returns of the killed and wounded, I therefore transmit a list containing the names of those who have fallen, according to the best information I could obtain, and I will forward the returns to your Lordship as soon as possible.

Return of Killed and Wounded between the 15th and 19th of January, 1812.

British Loss.—1 Serjeant; 23 Rank and File, killed; 4 Captains, 5 Lieutenants, 3 Serjeants, 133 Rank and File, wounded.

Portuguese Loss.—1 Serjeant, 15 Rank and File, killed; Lieutenants, 77 Rank and File, wounded.

Names of Officers wounded between January 15th and 19.

15th January.—Royal Engineers, Capt. Mulcaster, slightly; Lieut. Skelton, severely, since dead; Portuguese Artillery, 2d Lieut. Roberts, slightly.

16th January.—Royal Engineers, Capt. M'Cullock, severely; Lieut. Marshall, slightly. 2d Batt. 5th Foot, Ensign Ashford, severely. 74th Regiment, Lieut. Ramage, slightly. 1st Batt. 88th, Lieut. Armstrong, slightly; Lieut. Flack, dangerously.

18th January.—Portuguese Artillery, Lieut. A. D. Corta Silva, slightly.

19th January.—Royal Artillery, Captain Dynely, slightly; Capt. Power, ditto.

Names of Officers killed and wounded on the night of the 19th of January, according to the best information that can be obtained; the returns not yet received.

Killed.—Major Gen. Mackinnon 2d Batt. 5th Foot, Captain M'Dougall. 1st Batt. 4th Foot, Capt. Hardyman. 1st Batt. 52d Foot, Capt. J. Dobbs. 94th Foot, Capt. Williamson.

Wounded.—Major General Craufurd, severely: Major Gen. Vandeleur, slightly. Royal Engineers, Lieut. Thompson, severely. 43d Foot, Capt. Furguson, slightly. 52d Foot, Lieut.-Col. Colborne, severely: Major George Napier, lost an arm; Lieut. Gurwood, slightly. 77th Foot, Captain M'Lean, severely (lost a leg). 88th Foot, Lieut. Beresford, slightly. 95th Foot, Capt. Uniacke, severely. 1st Portuguese Artillery, Capt. Queerle.

3d Division.—Fifty non-commissioned Officers and Rank and File, killed; 70 ditto, wounded.

Light Division.—Fourteen non-commissioned Officers and Rank File, killed; 60 ditto, wounded.

Gen. Pack's Brigade.—Nine non-commissioned Officers and Rank and File, wounded.

SATURDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

This Gazette contains an Order in Council, directing that the Prayer for the restoration of his Majesty's health be discontinued, and a new one prepared by the Archbishop of Canterbury, which is to be read in "all churches throughout England."

BANKRUPTS.

B. Bilsborough, Parish of Saint Anne, Middlesex, stone-mason.
W. Slade, Paddington, dealer.
W. Anderson, Bolton, Lancaster, druggist.
J. Lathy, Honiton, Devon, mercer.
D. Tobin and B. J. Mitchell, Limehouse, ship-chandlers.
R. Underwood, Houndsditch, builder.
J. Sloane, Liverpool, merchant.
J. Lewis, Stourport, Worcester, liquor-merchant.
J. Mayor sen. and J. Mayor jun., Leadenhall-street, merchants.
S. C. Gregory, Portsmouth, sail-maker.
S. Ballard, jun. Bread-street-hill, bag-maker.
D. Butler, Priest-court, Foster-lane, ribbon-weaver.
B. Hodgson, Queen-street, Cheapside, skinner.
J. Caswell, Greenhill's-rents, Clerkenwell, baker.
S. Joseph, Portsea, slopseller.
R. Friday, jun. Isleworth, corn-dealer.
T. Godwin, Pall-mall, linen-draper.
W. Field, Wandsworth, shoe-maker.
T. Ansell, Birmingham, baker.
J. Smith, Whitechurch, Salop, victualler.
C. Baron and R. Pearson, Kingston-upon-Hull, timber-merchants.

PRICE OF STOCKS ON SATURDAY.

3 per Cent. Cons. . . ..63¼½—Omnium.....¼⅛

The reply of a FOREIGNER is unavoidably postponed till next week.

Mr. J. R. of Lichfield, is informed that his request cannot be complied with;—but there are numberless Publications in which his friend will readily find a place on the persuasive terms offered.

THE EXAMINER.

London, February 9.

The capture of Valencia by the French, has been followed by that of Ciudad Rodrigo on our parts, and while Bonaparte goes smiling about his levees at the former event, we are firing our guns in counter-enjoyment of the latter.—But the joy of the Imperial butcher, such as it is, has a better foundation than our own; in as much as the victory of the French breaks down a good constituent part of the opposition against them, while that of our General is little better than a passing gleam of lustre on his arms, which shews him to advantage, but does him no real service. The capture of Ciudad Rodrigo is a matter between the French and English; the place, comparatively speaking, is out of the way of great operations; and it is doubtful whether we can keep it, after all. The capture of Valencia, on the other hand, is a matter between French and *Spaniards*, between the invading, usurping enemy, and the people with whom the fate of the kingdom eventually remains; the place commands a district and situation of the highest importance; and Suchet has nobody to wrest it from him.

☞

A Mail from Malta and Gibraltar arrived yesterday morning.—There is a report of the Queen of Sicily having been deprived of her authority.

New-York Papers and Letters to the 5th, Philadelphia to the 4th, and Boston to the 1st ult. arrived yesterday. The Papers and private Letters are strangely at variance;—the former insisting that war will take place—the latter is positively asserting the contrary.

The change in the Spanish Government, announced some time ago, has taken place.—Colonel Tenada, accompanied by a Messenger of State, arrived on Wednesday morning at the residence of the Duc Del Infantado, with dispatches containing the information that the Regency has been dissolved, and a new Executive Council of Five appointed. The new Government is to consist of the following Members:—The Duc Del Infantado, General Henry O'Donnell, Admiral Villavicenza, Governor of Cadiz, M. Ribas, and M. Mosquera.

Mr. YORKE is about to resign—not, however, say the Ministers' Papers, because of any political motive, but merely on account of ill health. Mr. PERCEVAL, too, is rather complaining; and poor Mr. RYDER has also his qualms,—though not of the conscience.—All this ailing is said to have originated in the *removal* of certain Restrictions, which had hitherto cherished and braced the system.

Lord YARMOUTH, the intimate friend of the REGENT, voted against the Reversion Bill.

The Irish ATTORNEY GENERAL has given notice that it is not the intention of Government to proceed in any other trial for offences against the Convention Act.—Conciliation, he said, was the object of the Government, and as no man could plead ignorance, after the law and the fact had been established by a Jury, they hoped that no more violations of the law would take place.—Mr. KIRWAN was to be brought up for judgment last Tuesday, but it was announced that the sentence would be a very mild one. Anonymous letters have been sent to the Jury who found Mr. KIRWAN guilty, threatening their lives.—A reward has been offered for the discovery of the persons writing such letters.—A Proclamation has also been issued for the apprehension of two persons accused of treasonable practices.

A quarrel is said to have occurred between the French and Russian Ambassadors at the Court of Naples, the particulars of which are thus given:—"On a day of gala and ceremony, the French Ambassador entered the apartment of State and immediately proceeded to the highest situation assigned to the foreign Ministers. The Russian Ambassador soon followed, and hastily passing the Frenchman, placed himself above him. A dispute arose, the parties mutually expressed their sentiments, and the next morning fought a duel, when both of them were wounded."

Apprehensions are entertained for the life of General CRAUFURD. The ball entered his arm, and lodged afterwards in his side, from whence it is feared it could not be extracted.

Mr. HASE read a message at the Bar of the Stock Exchange, on Saturday morning, announcing the intention of the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER to fund fourteen millions of Exchequer Bills in the 5 per Cent. Navy. He proposed to give 108 Navy 5 per Cent. for every hundred pounds subscribed.—Navy 5 per Cents. immediately fell.

In the Court of King's Bench, yesterday, the Rule for granting the Mandamus, in the case of Dr. POVAH and the BISHOP of LONDON, was discharged. The Court of Exchequer was also occupied with hearing arguments in the case of Sir FRANCIS BURDETT and the SPEAKER.

Four men, confined in the Cold Bath Fields prison, made their escape on Friday, in their prison dress.

Hart and *Allatt*, so long confined on suspicion of being concerned in the late Murders, have at last been liberated. There is something unaccountable in this. Could not their guilt or innocence have been ascertained before? And if innocent, should they not be remunerated for their sufferings?

A Correspondent writes,—"I am a countryman, but I can read plain English. Last week I went to see St. Paul's Church.—I entered during divine service, and heard the organ, &c. &c. I understand if you go in, out of service time, you pay 2*d.* only, for viewing the body of the church (that I have no objection to). Upon going up the low steps leading to the top, I saw wrote up, "2*d.* to the top." Now there were three of us: I gave the man 1*s.*; he returned me 6*d.* and three tickets as cheques. When we had got eight or ten steps up, he called to us, and asked if we had paid for coming into *the church?* I said no, it was service time when I entered. "That's nothing," says he; "it's 4*d.* to the top."—Ought not these abuses to be corrected? Out of divine service, I allow people ought to pay something for going in, as it cannot be supposed the church should be kept open afterwards."

"There is an abuse at the India-house (says a Correspondent) which calls for redress.—After a Cadet has passed the Court, he is sent into the Secretary's Office to get his commission. The first thing put into his hand is an *expensive* India Calendar, which he is told will be very useful to him, when in fact to the Cadet it is so much waste paper; but buy it he must, or look shabby.—The person who makes out, or more properly speaking, fills up the Commission, then informs him that the *Secretary's* fee is a *guinea*, and adds with an official smile, "but you may give me what you please!"—If this person is to have a fee, let the Court define it.—To play upon the feelings of a Cadet with the words, "Give me what you please," is scandalous, as it drags the last guinea from the pocket of one who can very ill afford it, to save his pride, and is what ought not to be suffered by the Court."

We regret having inserted in our list of failures of Bankers within the last 14 years, the house of Messrs. LOCKHART, MAXTONE, and Co. into which error we were led by a Correspondent, who transmitted to us a list, in every other respect, we believe, correct. Upon enquiry, it is certain that no such failure took place.—The house of LOCKHART, MAXTONE, WALLIS, and PATERSON, declined business in the year 1797; but before they did so, they sent to every person who kept cash with them, requesting them to close their accounts, and handed over to each of them any balance that might be due. The senior surviving partner of the above firm, is a gentleman of a very considerable landed and personal property, and now resides on his estate in Hampshire.

Gawler, the clerk, yesterday underwent a private examination at Bow-street Office.

BANKRUPTS GAZETTED IN THE FOLLOWING THIRTY-FIVE YEARS.

1777	609	1796	735
—8	692	—7	866
—9	523	—8	724
1780	448	—9	557
—1	445	1800	736
—2	559	—1	884
—3	539	—2	947
—4	539	—3	920
—5	511	—4	884
—6	496	—5	958
—7	501	—6	994
—8	718	—7	1067
—9	561	—8	1101
1790	583	—9	1110
—1	612	1810	1792
—2	625	—11	2044
—3	1299		
—4	824	Total	28,107
—5	704		

Making an average of 803 each year for the 35 years: of 663 each year for the first 26 years: and of 1208 (nearly double) for the last 9 years during which we have been engaged in the war.

A Correspondent says,—"At the particular instance of the Bankers and Merchants of the city of London, a Bill is now framing, and will shortly be brought before Parliament, by a respectable Banker, entitled, "A Bill for more effectually preventing the embezzlement of securities for money and other effects, left, or deposited for safe custody or other special purposes, in the hands of bankers, merchants, agents, attornies, and others;" by which the perpetration of any such offence is made *felony*.—The recent circumstances may convince us of the necessity of such an Act: still it must be allowed, that great praise and credit should be given to those who have been the framers of it: their intention is honorable in the extreme."

Acerbi, in his travels through Finland, relates a very curious law which prevails at Abo, which, if adopted in this country, would totally put an end to that abominable traffic carried on by resurrection-men. It is that the bodies of all *pensioners* and *sinecure-placemen*, after their decease, become the property of the State, and are delivered to the surgeons for dissection. Thus, if they never did any good in their life, they were not wholly useless in their death. What excellent anatomical subjects would such a law as this produce in England.

THE KING'S ILLNESS.

MEDICAL BULLETIN,

"*Windsor Castle, Feb.* 1.

"His Majesty continues nearly in the same state in which he was last week."

THEATRICAL EXAMINER.

No. 109.

COVENT-GARDEN.

Our bustling dramatists having run through all their varieties of comedy, farce, opera, interlude, melo-drama, and pantomime, and being at last fairly put to a non-plus, have suddenly bethought themselves, in spite of the ridicule of the spectators and the exhaustion of their poor beasts, of beginning the race over again,—hardened, it seems, against the innumerable thumps, kicks, and falls they have received by the way, and careless what figure they may cut provided when they pull off their hats at the conclusion, the crowd take pity on them and clap their backs. The animals however on which these kind of races are performed, are of a nature exceedingly stubborn; and though their riders, in the present instance, have done all they could to flatter and edge them on,—endeavouring to hide the length of their ears, with all sorts of fine ribbons, and digging them every instant with their pointless heels, the creatures positively refuse to go back the whole length of the course; they stare; they prick up their ears; they plant their legs against procedure; they are frightened at the laughter and tumult which await them at the place of starting; in short, it is impossible to get them farther than melo-drama; and even there they would do nothing were it not for certain foreigners in the crowd,—German and French,—who being flattered by the riders' applications, and accustomed in their own countries to the management of such palfreys, kindly lend their assistance and ingenuity to effect a movement, till at last the poor (I wish I could say, dumb) animals come in again with such waving of penny flags and blowing of penny trumpets, and such pathetic efforts on the part of the said Germans, that the little boys who are present cannot contain their admiration and almost begin to envy them. It is true, there was an attempt the other day, on the part of an experienced rider named Dibdin, to commence at the old place; and by keeping his beast out of sight a little and bringing it round through the bye-lanes, he certainly did contrive to appear again at the starting post; but his hack got a dreadful fall, and he was taken up for dead.

Allegory apart, however, the dramatists are really reduced to the nonplus abovementioned; and after the complete failure of Mr. Dibdin's comedy, it is not likely that they will endeavour to return to their old, original sins. Accordingly, the whole set of them, old and young, have lately taken to translation from such German or French dramas as are a little above the pitch of their own productions, a practice, which was well enough when used in moderation and out of a real modesty in the translator, but not to be endured as a mere refuge for idle or exhausted nonsense, especially when it threatens us with a revival of maudlin German pieces, which have been read and ridiculed without end, and long been given up by the better taste of the public. Yet this is the present state of the British drama. Mr. Hook gives us his little pieces from the French; Mr. Pocock gives us *his* little pieces; Mr. Dimond gives us his little pieces; and Mr. Reynolds has recourse to translations already made, in order to give us his little pieces. At length, there seems to have been a dearth of new originals; when Mr. Charles Kemble, unluckily betaking himself to the set of German Plays translated by Mr. Thompson, and presenting us with a new *Count Benyowski*, reminds Mr. Reynolds of the existence of that ancient treasure, and accordingly, out of the same author and from the very same volume (German Theatre, Vol. III.) comes the *Virgin of the Sun*, which is now performing in the most splendid manner and, of course, with the greatest applause, on the "classical stage" of Covent-Garden.

This play by Korzebue,—for it is a mere transcript from the German Theatre, with the addition of such vulgarisms and common-place as Mr. Reynolds thought himself bound to supply,—is a sort of companion to *Pizarro*, and contains the early part of the history of *Rolla*, who is here first made acquainted with *Cora's* passion for *Alonzo*, and devotes himself with a romantic philosophy to their future happiness, and finally saves them from the punishment of the vestal law which they had violated, and of which he accomplishes the abolition. There is unquestionably something very elevating in the contemplation of *Rolla's* character; and it has never been denied that the German dramatists possess a feeling for the pathetic and impassioned,—sometimes even for the sublime; but the feeling is so deluged with affectation,—there is such a morbid preference about them, of high-wrought sensibilities and maddening provocatives to the solid comforts within our reach,—such a nonsensical and dangerous reliance on impressions instead of principles,—such grave attempts to exalt the babbling of every-day feelings into something new and surprising,—such badness of taste, such lachrymose imposture, such beggarly egotism;—in a word, such cant of every description, that they have no more pretence, or rather just about *as much* pretence, to stand in the same rank with true and triumphant genius, as the ravings of a diseased idleness have to be accounted oracles of wisdom, or the Lectures of Mr. Coleridge to render him worthy of the Poets he pretends to analyze. I shall therefore be excused from re-

peating all that has been said in conviction of these German offenders and of their unfortunate aiders and abettors; nor will it be necessary to enter into any further account of the Piece before us, the reader will easily conceive the expense that is thrown away upon it in dresses and decorations,—the flags, the frankincense, and the processions; and he will lament as usual the want of rival and well-sized Theatres, that might relieve us from this stupendous booth.

The music by Mr. Bishop evinces his usual science; and in the full instrumental parts is highly expressive and imposing; but he does not appear to have advanced in point of invention. The sweet voice and delicate taste of Mr. Sinclair are not heard to advantage in the noisy parts that are given him; but then, to make us amends perhaps, the voice of Miss Feron is heard too much. This young lady has some taste and more power of lungs, and seems to have been injudiciously encouraged in exerting a voice, which is by no means pleasanter when it is loudest. —Some of the upper tones are a singular mixture of mellowness and harshness; and the middle ones degenerate into a sort of splay-footed jollity, like those of Master Smalley. With a little less manifest reliance on her powers of pleasing, and the instructions of some abler advisers than those who seem to have been about her,—Miss Feron will probably become a very tolerable actress and agreeable singer.

The soundest part of the whole entertainment is afforded by Mr. Young's performance of *Rolla*, which is the very best of it's kind on the stage. His emphasis on pronouncing the reluctant word "brother," when he resolves to forego his own feelings and embraces his *Cora's* husband, is extremely touching and full of meaning; and so is every situation in which he finds himself in her presence. His performance indeed, throughout, exhibits a true conception of his character,—that is to say, a vehement but equable glow of heart and highmindedness, alike removed from the sophisticated parade of Mr. Kemble and the boyish extravagance of Pope. Mr. Young feels warmly, and when he takes pains to do it, can think as justly. If he would cease to be content with being merely *good* in general, and set himself *ambitiously* to study every new and important character he has to perform, Mr. Kemble's present superiority, I think, would vanish before him.

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FINE ARTS.

A Critique on the Paintings in the British Gallery, beginning with the admirable Pieces by Messrs. Haydon, Bird, Sharp, and Collins, will be commenced next week.

TO THE CRITIC ON BARRY'S WORKS IN THE *EDINBURGH REVIEW*, AUG. 1810.

[concluded from last week.]

Was there ever any thing within the whole circle of Academic conduct, equal to the election of the Professor of Anatomy?—a man who has been evidently proved, since, not to know exactly what the Students want,—one who had absolutely written *against Anatomy*, and tried to shew that the works of the Great Masters evinced no traces of its influence (an assertion so futile is not to be answered here, but answered he will be, I hope, and refuted too): was it likely,—was it probable,—that any man, with such unaccountable and dangerous prejudices in his mind, should excite that enthusiasm among the Students, which would make them ground themselves fundamentally in Art? Was it possible, indeed, that he could be expected to communicate what he did not feel himself? And yet this is the man for whom Bell was rejected! who by his Anatomy of Painting shewed a Painter's feeling and a Painter's mind. "What did the Academy know of Bell?" said an Academician. What did the Academy know?—what ought it to know of any man but his works?—"A neglect to provide qualified persons," says Reynolds, with his accustomed wisdom, "is to produce a neglect of qualifications:" it is this that lowers Art and Artists among men of literature and men of sense, who in attending such lectures, and hearing such lecturers, retire disgusted with a set of men who could listen in patience for one moment to such wandering.

How can you be so unfeeling, Mr. Reviewer, as to ridicule senseless blots and unmeaning flourishes? Do you not know that blots and flourishes, meaning nothing, are effusions of feeling? But perhaps, Sir, you think with us, that when the Academicians say feeling, they mean idleness. We will allow a man, deeply versed in Nature, who with a dash of his pencil will give the exact form of an object, that he may express an idea, to talk of feeling, because the expression of his feelings will be the instantaneous creation of things, by hitting at once their characteristics; but to hear men, who cannot shape a line as it ought to be, or put a touch in its right place, excuse their indolence by talking of their feelings, is really laughable. So, when you see a wiry splash of colour for a hand,—hush! that's feeling,—don't talk of these things, you'll hurt the Artist's feelings! Nothing can be more delightful than the real momentary expressions of feeling in the great artists, Rubens, Titian, Vandyke, Tintoretto, and Rembrandt; let them scrawl their brush in any way, you see by what they did they could do more: their dashes were not those of random ignorance, but of minds in a heat, who could not stay to express more than the leading points of things, and when they were hinted were content. What can be more unfinished, say they in excuse, than Rubens? The dash, we answer, that may appear careless unfinishing to the ignorant eye, to the feeling and the educated one is known to be the result of the deepest principle, and at the proper distance will be seen by both to be the leading characteristic of the thing expressed by a touch. "He that leaves his Pictures rough, like Titian," says Reynolds, "without his principles, will indeed produce '*goffe pitture*,' as Vasari calls them;" and the Student that dashes, because Rubens appears to dash, without reflection, has begun at the wrong end. Thus they talk of execution;—if they see a man laboriously, and carefully, and warily investigating (as a child cautiously and timidly looks around when it first sets off to walk,—both from the same feeling, because they are both going to do that they have never done, and therefore know not their own powers till they have tried them),—if they see a man doing this, I say, and lose, perhaps, the facility of handling, he has no execution! they forget that by carefully, and warily, and laboriously investigating one Picture, though he may lose facility in expressing that one, he will acquire the power of painting with the right sort of facility in the next,—putting the touches, and *none more* or *less* than are necessary to express the object: *this* is execution,—not scrawling about your brush because you do not know

what else to do with it. I recollect a dog's eye, in a Picture by Rubens in Mr. Thomas Hope's Collection, which is a perfect example of execution: here is the exact form of the brow, the lid, the eye,—all expressed by as many touches *only* as were requisite to express them: here is sharpness and softness, and all the characteristics of Nature, hit out instantly:—Rubens is full of such beauties; he is a perfect example of execution. But to see a head without bone, raw, husky, and flimsy, stuck on shoulders without a neck, envelope in splashes of white for a cravat, and a hand dashed about in senseless ostentation, as much incapable of motion as if it were paralysed;—to see this, is to see a perfect example of Royal Academical execution. You will hear them talk of *detail* in the same style as if it were beneath *them*. Who had more detail than Titian, Raphael, Michael Angelo, or the Greeks? but in England, he that attends to legitimate detail,—that is, he that defines things so as to make them intelligible, is considered a dull fellow: to scrawl because Gainsborough scrawled (without his feeling), is always a more undoubted proof of genius, than to define like Phidias or Apelles, Michael Angelo or Raphael, Titian or Vandyke.*

The only Artists who are fundamentally grounded in their profession in the Academy are the Architects: they could not, indeed, build a house without a foundation, slur over a window, or keep a stair-case *in shadow*; yet not more absurd would this be, than painting a head without bone, putting dashes of wiry colour for a hand, or unmeaning scrawls for a waistcoat.—I perfectly agree with you, Sir, that employment will not create genius, if it does not exist; but I affirm that employment is necessary to foster it, if it does: that employment will not create it, we have had pretty ample proofs,—in the productions of the present French School, and in adorning St. Paul's and Westminster Abbey with Sculpture. Had Phidias or Michael Angelo more liberal patronage than for years has been bestowed on the Sculptors? Have not they had all the advantages of the ancient Greeks? Have they not been employed by the nation, with every stimulus to rouse fire in their breasts?—What has been the result? Will not St. Paul's and Westminster Abbey, with a few exceptions, disgrace the nation, when its genius shall be hereafter estimated? Think on the naked majesty of Theseus, and then bring to your fancy Captain any-body standing in his waistcoat!—Are their subjects incapable of excellence? must Victory always crown? and Fame always blow a trumpet? If it must be so, let them; but this is no reason they should have wretched feet and ill-formed limbs; if monuments must be made by receipt, let the parts that compose them be properly assorted. Never was there a finer opening for a great Sculptor:—in comes an order for a dozen eagles' feet, two Venuses for a saloon, and a Neptune for the garden-pond; polishers and raspers can be hired like tailors, and you will see old, imbecile journeymen, with spectacles on the tips of their red noses, chiselling eyes and drilling nostrils at a guinea a week, which Phidias or Michael Angelo would have trembled to touch. One of the most eminent lately took a partner into *his business*. A Partner!—fancy Phidias or Michael Angelo taking a Partner!!! The consequence of such a state of feeling must easily be foreseen: indeed, a morning's walk in St. Paul's or Westminster Abbey will clearly shew it: Heroes that might have been made to contend with Greece, Lions that might have rivalled the Dog of Alcibiades,—careless, misshapen, and unfinished. There is a total want among the Academicians of that great enthusiasm, that noble independence, that contempt for petty intrigue and paltry cabal,—the characteristic of Nelson, of Blake, of Michael Angelo and Raphael, and all the great characters of antiquity and modern times. Excellence never was nor ever will be produced by a brutal and interested love of gain. When a man becomes an Academician, he suffers as great a change as if he had undergone chemical transmutation: however noble his feelings,—however high his notions,—however grand his ideas, he is no sooner elected, than he becomes cautious, timid, silent, politic, and intriguing; affecting to know what he has never heard of,—denying what he really knows; undervaluing his rivals, and puffing those he need not fear. The Royal Academicians are like the elephants of the East, who are no sooner caught in the pits prepared for them, than they become as eager as their masters that their wild companions, who range the forest in boundless liberty, should be in the same predicament as themselves. Who can help feeling for the Nobility, the Royal Family, and men of genius, who crowd to the Academy on the day of the dinner, sit in state round the President, and, with agonised souls, obliged to admire—what? sublimity of conception, and Greek design—No—portrait of this man, portrait of that man, standing on legs tapered like nine pins; and thus a ceremony, intended to sanction fine taste and high art, is made subservient to get business for mediocrity.—In the name of truth, let all parts of the art flourish; the greater variety of our excellence, the higher shall we rank; but let not the Royal Academy of England be perverted to gratify vanity and get sitters.

Yet these are the men who sneer at the people for not having taste; groan at the Government for not employing them to disgrace St. Paul's, as the Sculptors have already done; who struggle with all their might to smother the rising flame of the country, and prevent those who are taking a clearer and the right road to excellence from exposing their weaknesses, opening the eyes of the people, and pushing them headlong from their seats: but in spite of the clouds and mists of bad taste that yearly roll from the Royal Academy, the morning-star of Art will rise, and usher in the rising sun. Thank God! the remains of Athens have fled for protection to England,—the Genius of Greece still hovers near them; may she, with her inspiring touch, give new vigour to British Art, and cause new beauties to spring from British exertions! May their essence mingle with our blood and circulate through our being—may we never paint a touch or draw a line without instinctive reference to the principles of these divine productions. "Look down upon Genius," says Mr. Shee, "and he will dwindle to a pigmy; look up to him, and he will rise to a giant:" but I say, Sir, look down upon Genius, and he will rise

* Some are complaining that they fear the Directors wish to encourage finishing like the French school.—Ridiculous!—They wish, I doubt not, to encourage *proper* finishing, not *high* finishing;—so that a *foot* may not be mistaken for a *hand*, as is sometimes the case in the Exhibition.—Proper finishing, is seizing the leading points of things with truth and correctness, that they may predominate over the subordinate parts,—though the subordinate parts are not to be neglected.—The reverse is the character of the French school,—of David, whom you, with truth, assert, Sir, to be as little worthy of imitation in art as in morals or politics.

to a giant; attempt to crush him, and he will soar to a god.

If the Academy, with such principles, is to be considered the leader of Art in this country, will the Arts ever take their place by the side of the Poetry, and Philosophy, and Architecture of the country? Will not the Academies beginning to be formed at Bath, at Liverpool, and Leeds, and those already formed at Dublin and Edinburgh, be infected? Indeed, if they consider the Royal Academy as a model, Heaven have mercy on high Art! That they are so infected, or beginning to wander from the right road, a quotation from the *Liverpool Mercury* of August last, p. 51. in its account of their Academical Dinner, will clearly prove:—"To esteem Art," says the writer, "as the passive embellishment of life, is to shew very little acquaintance with Human Nature; that it is one of the most active agents in the improvement of mankind is eminently manifest:"—all incontrovertible—"but it is not by *the superiority of individuals*, so much as by the general estimation which is at present perceptible, that the Arts are to be entitled to be considered as public benefits; the powers of Michael Angelo and Raphael, and of Corregio, commanded admiration, but had *less effect* on the manners of society than the milder and more *attainable* excellence of Reynolds, West, and Opie; or of those illustrious natives of this part of our dominions—Romney, Stubbs, Wilson, and Wright of Derby." And a little lower:—"Though he (the British Artist) may not be able to produce such elaborate pieces" (viz. as the works of those great beings to which Greece and Italy owe their rank), "he has far more incitement to produce what is correctly natural and generally interesting." Were there ever such sentiments uttered? are they worth answering? No, certainly; but they must be answered,—because contemptuous silence is not always the most effectual method of preventing the propagation of error. Inferring that the general excellence of Art is not owing to the superiority of great individuals, but to a great number of those whose excellence is more attainable because not so high!—inferring that those great works of those illustrious men, Michael Angelo, Raphael, and Corregio, have less effect on society than the more attainable excellencies of inferior artists! when the very reverse is the fact; for the higher and greater are illustrious individuals, the higher and greater will be the general excellence of Art, and the deeper and more rooted the general feeling. If such principles are propagated among the rising youth of the country, it would be much better were they suffered to stumble out their own way; for none of common sense are likely to be infected by such dangerous absurdity:—if such are the principles of the Country Academies, it would be better for rising Art had they never emerged from that obscurity in which they before remained.*

* The sentiments delivered by Mr. Roscoe at the dinner, indeed, as might have been expected, shewed a right and elevated notion of things. He told the Artists they ought not to expect Patronage as a bounty, but as the result only of superior talent; and that no man should purchase a work for any other reason but because he approved it.—A Mr. Earle endeavoured also to rouse them to a proper feeling, by saying,—Persevering and unremitting application were the only means of attaining excellence; and hoped they would be all combined and unanimous, as well, without any other contention than that of generous and friendly emulation.

A man, in the early part of his existence, should impregnate his mind with principles and science, and not suffer himself to do any thing but what he can account for and do again.—Rather suffer the imputation of tedious anxiety and dull stupidity by carefully investigating, that you may one day give vent to your feelings with furious certainty, than for the childish gratification of hastening before the public, send your fancies into the world expressed with all the impudence of imbecile inexperience. Much of the spirit of a first fancy may evaporate, and labour be too apparent: let it be so,—you are every day raising a fabric, that according to the principles of things will not easily fall, by choosing none but the strong bricks to lay at the foundation. Never be frightened from your plan, if it be the result of principle and meditation, by the remarks of unthinking folly; or be urged to impatience to convince mankind of your talents, before you have, in some degree, perfected the acquirements necessary to express them. There are men who study nothing but Anatomy, because Anatomy is useful;—this is the abuse of acquirement: proceed,—if you proceed, you must arrive at last: you may be taken off in your journey,—this is the chance of life; but surely it is better, as there is chance, to be taken off after having done your best, than in the midst of unexecuted projects and promised amendment. You hear some Students say of themselves, "if they did not do it at once, they could never do it by study:" if they *did* it at once, we should tremble at their inspiration, and relinquish the art in despair. But when you may exhaust yourself with pointing out error and exemplifying defect, to hear them talk, that unless they did it at once they could never do it by study,—meaning, of course, that they have done it, is really lamentable. I have always observed, that those who affect not to study and investigate, do investigate in some degree: if it is absurd, why do it at all? You are an inspired man,—you are full of beauties,—you are pregnant with resources. Why do you look at a limb, at a head, or Michael Angelo, or the Greeks? "If I am a little defective," say they, "how many can find it out?—if I am ignorant, how many can discover it?" If *this* was the principle that actuated men of genius, who would ever have risen above mediocrity? It is the refinement of things imperceptible to unscientific inexperience, that distinguish great men from other human beings;—it was by delicate beauties the Greeks have reached the top; and the moderns will not equal or outstrip them, but by similar exhibitions of attentive investigation and deep research.

Painting conveys ideas by form, colour, and light and shadow; but colour and light and shadow, without form, can do little: an exact knowledge of the forms of things is therefore necessary to express ideas clearly; and the power of representing things exactly as they are or ought to be on canvas, constitutes the Painter. We all know how many fancies and visions,—how many beautiful arrangements and refined expressions pass into oblivion in our youth, from the want of this power: it is this power we fag for, not ideas,—the sooner it is acquired, the happier and greater is the Artist: yet it can not be acquired but by never suffering an atom to remain uninvestigated and unresearched;—till at last all Nature is laid open,—all animated being is at his disposal, and under his control. The Moderns equal the Ancients in facility, but do not

so steep it in science, that it is not thrown away. Facility will come from mere mechanical repetition: the great principle is, so to educate your mind, that when execution rushes on your hand from habitual exercise, your mind may know *exactly* where to direct the fury of your hand. This is the great principle of Art,—these are the moments of rapture every man of genius sees at the end of his labours: till this delightful, stupendous power is acquired, what miseries, what checks, what struggles must he not undergo; but if he have but the resolution to proceed firmly through them, then indeed will his reward be great!—then indeed will his mind, impregnated with science and his hand fearless by practice, be enabled, as fast as visions float on his fancy, to shower them on his canvas with inspired profusion. Let the rising Students, on whom the reputation of this country for greatness of Art depends, recollect, that this power cannot be acquired but by acting on the same principle from the first dawning of a wish to be an artist to the last moment of life. In the first years of study, let them consider every figure they draw, as if their existence depended on its excellence; let them look and compare, scrutinize and alter: what they cannot see distinctly in shadow, let them carefully *examine* and *ascertain*; let them draw *exactly* what *they see*, and nothing *more* nor *less*: let them get a perfect knowledge of things as they are, before they *presume* to alter the model before them, if but the thousandth part of a hair's point. I will venture to say, that if any thing will mislead promising talent, it is this senseless, vicious, impudent Academic squareness, which has ruined or misled the hopes of half the Academies of Europe.—You will see these young would-be Michael Angelos of Art square in a smutty outline with charcoal, then scrawl in the features in chalk, and dissect the body into various unintelligible parts, as if to shew their knowledge, when I have always remarked it exemplified their total ignorance; for there never was a division right: (one might gain something by a superfluous exhibition of *real* knowledge, but who ever became wiser by an ostentatious display of ignorance?)—then make their knees, and ankles, and feet, as angular, and hard, and stony, as if they were building the Colossus at Rhodes:—"Get a perfect knowledge of Nature as she is," says R. J. L. in the unrivalled first part of his Letter, "before you attempt to make her as she ought to be"—"That *exquisite, masterly drawing*," says Burke, "which is the glory of the great School where you are, has fallen to the lot of few, perhaps to none, of the present age, in its highest perfection. If I were to indulge a conjecture, I should attribute all that is called 'greatness of style' to this exact knowledge of the parts of the body, of anatomy, and perspective; for by knowledge exactly and habitually, without the labour of particular and occasional thinking what was to be done in every figure they designed, they naturally attained a freedom and spirit of outline,—because they could be daring without being absurd: whereas ignorance, if it be cautious, is poor and timid; if bold, only blindly presumptuous. This minute and thorough knowledge of Anatomy, and practical and theoretical Perspective, by which I mean to include foreshortening, is all the effect of labour and use, in *particular studies*, and not in general compositions." *

Never suffer your youth to be an excuse for inadequacy: if you do that at eighteen which others have not done till thirty, you are the greater man. It is not unusual for young men to be sneered at for inexperience, when they commence great works,—as if this had not been the misfortune of all men at first commencing life; but it is the capability or incapability of conquering the consequences that distinguish the man of genius from the man of none. Consult Nature for every thing; for though she will not always equal your wants, she will often surpass them; and where there is chance, she is certainly worth the trial. Young Students, at first commencing acquaintance with her, reject her often with boyish peevishness,—complaining that she puts them out, because she does not immediately yield them assistance to their present particular want, not considering that she can never be a *substitute*, but an *assistant*, and therefore not to be *discarded*, but *managed*. Why does she put them out? because it requires energy and thought to select her beauties and reject her defects: a man of genius will not suffer her to put him out,—he will make Nature bend to him,—he will force her into his service.

You say, Sir, that all the Academical Prizes in all the Academies in Europe may have spoiled many a Painter, but have never made one; and you infer, the Directors of the British Gallery, by prizes, will only nourish indolence and pamper pride. The objections that make against the principles of the Academical Prizes of London and the rest of Europe, are not applicable to the British Gallery: in the Academies, so restricted are the Students that none of common feeling or common pride will submit to them: first, the subject is given,—then the size of the canvas is specified,—then the figures are to be sixteen inches high; so that, instead of the subject being a warm and unpremeditated conception, you are obliged to go, ox like, and yoke your feelings to it. Is it any wonder that such has been the result?—But at the British Gallery you are entirely left to your own feelings, in every point of view; and if such a method be not likely to elicit genius (if it exist), I know not what method is. If the Directors make the Pictures of one year a criterion for the next, and never suffer any Pictures to carry off prizes on the year following, that are not better or equal to those preceding, Art *must advance*. Excellence among the Greeks was the result of premiums, both in Poetry and Painting; and why should it have less effect among us, if it be equally free of restraint? But it rests with the Students;—let them invincibly determine that success shall increase, and not weaken, their persevering efforts; that failure shall stimulate, and not depress them; that misfortune shall rouse them, and oppression excite their indignation;—let them first *have an object*, and then pursue it with a keen, steady, unconquerable perseverance, even if the whole world should crumble in ruins about them, and they should be the only living beings left. With such feelings, their pride will not be nourished, or their indolence pampered;—with such an iron resolution, there will be no difficulty that "grows in the veins of actions highest reared" they will not conquer,—no excellence within the scope of human ability they will not attain. AN ENGLISH STUDENT.

P. S. What I have said about Mr. Bird I again repeat,—that he is totally deficient in mechanic excellence, and absolutely without Wilkie's humour. But is this denying him *all* merit? Certainly not.—What is the amount of this? I deny him excellence in mechanism,—I deny him Wilkie's humour: but he has a mechanism of his own, and a hu-

* Barry's Life, Vol. I.

mour of his own; but I deny him excellence in the one case, or humour equal to Wilkie's in the other. I am willing and happy to bear testimony to what merit I think he possesses (if the opinion of a Student can have any weight either on one side or the other). I think his merit considerable.—I think he is a man of strong feeling, and that his picture now at the Gallery is the best he has painted; that it exemplifies, in many parts, he is more qualified in *feeling* for this walk of Art than the other.—I am sorry, if by thus giving my opinion of Mr. Bird's merits and defects I have hurt the feelings of him or his friends; but as he was a prominent instance, when I ventured to review the conduct of the Academy, I considered it *then* and *now* my duty to say what I have.—I have been told I unjustly attribute unworthy motives to the Royal Academy; attentively digest you who think so what follows:—In April, 1810, Wilkie was advised by them to withdraw Lord Dunstanville's picture of the Man Dancing with the Girl's Cap, because Mr. Bird's was so excellent they feared Wilkie's reputation might be injured. As no Academician is admitted while the pictures are arranging but they who are arranging them, he could not judge for himself; and therefore depending on their judgment, did withdraw it. When the private day of exhibition came, nothing could exceed the astonishment of Wilkie's friends, for little indeed had Wilkie to fear from Mr. Bird. This picture was exhibited last year, and I have no hesitation in saying, that the head of the man, and many other parts, were more beautiful than any thing he ever painted, and had all the gemmy brilliancy of an old picture.

ERRATA, in the former Articles—Page 61, instead of "for he serves as an example," read, "*for he will serve*," &c.—Page 76, instead of "Another, that art was a thing *that*," read, "Another, that art was a thing *which*."—Page 77, instead of "The Institution, if, for twenty years, conducted," read, "If the Institution be for twenty years conducted."—Instead of "If *they* persevere," read, "If the *Directors* persevere."—Instead of "a means of elevating to a rank," read, "a means of elevating *them* to a rank."—Page 78, instead of "did Titian," &c. read, "did *not* Titian," &c.

MIDDLESEX SESSIONS.

THE KING v. ARTHUR OLDRIEVE, TURNPIKE-COLLECTOR.

This case is laid before the Public to direct their attention to that system of extortion, accompanied by occasional brutality, which is carried on by many Toll-collectors at the Turnpike-gates in the vicinity of the Metropolis. It is highly to the credit of the Gentleman who brought it forward, at much expence and trouble to himself, with a view of putting a stop to an increasing mischief. It was an indictment on the prosecution of Charles Nourse Finch, Esq. against *Arthur Oldrieve*, one of the Collectors of Tolls at the Turnpike-gate at Kingsland. The circumstances were shortly as follow:—On the 7th of October, last year, Mr. Finch was returning from town to his country-house, in his gig, together with his wife and another lady: he paid the toll at the Stone-End Turnpike, Kingsland, and received the ticket; the next Turnpike was the gate kept by Arthur Oldrieve, upon the same trust, and which gate the former payment cleared. Arthur Oldrieve demanded the toll: Mr. Finch called out the number, and was proceeding; but Arthur Oldrieve said he wanted the night-toll: Mr. Finch told him he had already paid it, and produced the ticket he had just received from the first gate: Arthur Oldrieve said, *he had not paid it*, and used most brutal and indecent language, and at the same time seized the horse in the gig, and was about to take off the bridle; but, on being expostulated with, desisted from seizing the bridle, and violently wrenched the crupper from the horse, using language too foul to report. Such was the assault upon which the Prosecutor indicted him, and upon which the Jury found the defendant *Guilty*.—Sentence: One month's imprisonment in the House of Correction, Cold Bath Fields.—It is to be hoped that Contractors do not countenance their servants in such conduct, which is so great an abuse of their trust, and so notoriously a public mischief.

ACCIDENTS, OFFENCES, &c.

Sir,—A few days since I received a small parcel from Norwich, weight 8lbs.; the carriage and porterage demanded 3*s.* 4*d.*, and on my objecting to the charge, the porter, after some hesitation, brought me another ticket, which he said he found in his cart, and which he supposed must be for my parcel, marked 2*s.* 4*d.* I told him still he must have made a mistake, but paid him. In a day or two after I applied at the Coach-office (the Golden Cross), and the clerk, on referring to his book, said the porter had made a mistake, as the carriage should have been 1*s.* 6*d.* and 8*d.* porterage, and ordered the porter to return me 6*d.* On my applying to Bow-street, I was informed they could do nothing for me, if they had not charged too much for porterage from the inn; by which it appears porters may charge what they like on the carriage of parcels without punishment, so they keep within the law on the porterage. Now it appears to me there is very little difference whether the public is to be cheated by these worthies in carriage or porterage. Perhaps some of your correspondents can inform me how to apply for redress.—Your constant reader,

Norfolk-street. J. C. B.

A dreadful fire has happened at Richmond, in Virginia: it took place at the Theatre during the performance; upwards of 100 persons were burnt to death, and several hundreds more were much injured.

A carriage, in which were three young ladies, (the Miss Longs, of Hammersmith) was overturned on the road leading from Brompton-row to Old Brompton, on Monday evening, in consequence of coming in contact with a post. The horses taking fright dragged the carriage a considerable distance. All the young ladies were severely injured, and the eldest had one of her eyes destroyed, by the glass of the window, against which she fell. The coachman escaped without any hurt of consequence.

An audacious attempt was made to rob the house of Mrs. Watts, in Oxenden-street, on Saturday week, about nine o'clock in the evening. The mistress of the house, who was sitting in the kitchen with her servant, observed that she heard footsteps in the passage, and on the servant going up-stairs she was met by two men, one of whom knocked her down; but alarmed by her shrieks the fellows made off. It appeared that the robbers had effected their entrance by picking the lock of the street door.

DEATHS.

On Thursday evening last, at Newington Place, Isaac Pilleau, Esq. aged 78.

Suddenly, the Rev. William Neal, of Rayton near Bury; he had retired to bed the previous evening in apparent good health, and was found dead therein the next morning.

At his Lordship's house in Portman-square, the Countess of Beverly.

At Whitchurch, Shropshire, aged 102, Mr. Wood, who for the last 50 years drank no other beverage than water.

On Sunday evening last, Mrs. Scott Waring, of Peterborough House, Parson's Green, of an apoplectic fit.

On Friday week, the Right Hon. Lady Charles Spencer, aged 68. Her Ladyship was aunt to the present Duke of St. Albans.

On Thursday week, at Grantham, the Dowager Lady Whichcote, relict of Sir Christopher Whichcote, Bart.

On Monday last, suddenly, Jacob Bonk, Esq. aged 71.

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